



The Passport

World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (www.wacmb.org)

April 2021

Quick Takes: World Issues in the Age of Covid-19

Check your email on the scheduled days for links to these videos.

This month, the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area continues its special eight-part thematic series of *Quick Takes* exploring the political and economic landscape the Biden Administration will encounter as it reformulates US foreign policy.

April 15, 2021: Isebill Gruhn **University of California, Santa Cruz (Emerita)** *Brexit and Beyond*



The politics that led to Brexit have had a considerable impact, not only on Brexit itself, but also on the the European Union, its member states, and the UK. Many forces continue to swirl around Europe: nationalism; populism; security interests; what to do about authoritarianism in former east bloc states; the impact of Brexit on the economies of the EU and the UK; and now Covid-19. Isebill Gruhn discusses the many uncertainties and flux within Europe, as well as the impact of Brexit on the UK's relationship with the US. An expert and widely published scholar in international politics and international law, Dr. Gruhn joined the faculty of the University of California, Santa Cruz, in 1969. She taught in the politics department and twice chaired the department. She received her PhD in political science from UC Berkeley and her MA in international studies from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

April 30, 2021: Mikhail Tsyarkin, Naval Postgraduate School *How Democracy Has Failed in Russia*

In the last years of the Soviet Union and in the first years of an independent Russia under former President Boris Yeltsin, Russia made dramatic progress toward a democratic order. But most observers agree that democracy there has gradually eroded. Dr. Mikhail Tsyarkin discusses the difficulties of building a liberal democracy in the remnants of the Soviet empire, and provides a brief analysis of the current situation in Russia. Since 1987, Mikhail "Misha" Tsyarkin has taught at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, where he is an Associate Professor in the Department of National Security Affairs. An expert on Russia, he teaches courses on contemporary politics, military power, and the history of Russia and Eurasia.



Affiliate Report: Monterey Peninsula College

Monterey Peninsula College has long been one of WACMB's affiliated partners, and we highly value the relationship between our organizations. MPC's liaison to WACMB is David Martin, who became the Superintendent/President of MPC in October 2020, after serving as the Interim President for a year and the Vice President of Administration before that.

David reports that MPC is undertaking a number of very interesting innovations that will benefit both the school and the wider community.

- MPC is partnering with the United Way and Monterey County's Department of Social Services to use \$500,000 in federal stimulus funds to help MPC students with their rent and utility payments. This program will relieve financial stress for qualifying students and allow them to focus on their studies.
- In partnership with local health agencies and first responders, MPC will open a Covid-19 vaccination site for local residents who are currently homeless at its Public Safety Training Center in Seaside. The program will be coordinated by the Seaside Fire Department.
- Since many classes at MPC's Marina Education Center will remain online for at least one more semester, that site will serve as a temporary location for the Monterey County Workforce Development Board during the second half of 2021. This will allow MCWDB to continue to offer its county-wide career development services for dislocated workers while making use of MPC's Marina campus: a win-win situation for both organizations.

(continued in the next column)

(Affiliate Report, continued)

- This spring, MPC is undertaking a rebranding project to better reflect the college's current strategic priorities and enhance its communications with the community. DECCA Design has been retained to develop a new marketing strategy for MPC. Look for opportunities for community input in the coming months.

Overall, MPC continues to work hard to provide effective and relevant educational paths to our community.

Discussion Groups

Now that the 2021 *Great Decisions* discussion series has ended, the OLLI Discussion Group will take its usual seasonal hiatus until the fall.

However, the WACMB Discussion Group will keep the conversation going. The group plans to meet every other week beginning in mid-April. Topics will often dovetail with those covered in the WACMB *Quick Takes* series, but may sometimes address other world affairs-related topics of interest.

Meetings will be held online via Zoom through the spring and summer, and will move to in-person meetings once it's been determined that such meetings can be done safely.

The WACMB Discussion Group is facilitated by Judith Glickman and Boyd Haight. If you are interested in participating in the group, please send an email to info@wacmb.org and let us know. Come join the conversation!

The World Affair Council of the Monterey Bay Area encourages our members to get vaccinated against Covid-19 when possible. Until then, wear a mask and stay safe!

The deadline for the Second Annual WACMB Teen Essay Contest has been extended to Monday, April 19, so we're repeating the announcement.

The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area is delighted to announce its second annual Teen Global Studies Essay Contest! Spearheaded by WACMB board member Michelle Amirkhanian, the essay contest is designed to encourage interest in global studies and international affairs among local high school students. Please pass this along to any students who might be interested!

Winners will receive awards of \$150.

To enter the contest, students must write a 350-400 word essay addressing one of the following topics:

- Does social media influence the world for better, for worse, or both?
- If elected to lead a free nation, what would you do to improve our world?
 - What is the most important fundamental human right?
- What, if any, are the responsibilities of the superpowers for the world at large?
 - How can we create a worldwide demand for peace?
- What steps should we take to stop climate change? Why should the world take your advice?

The contest is open to all teens who are high school students in Monterey County.

The deadline for entry is now **Monday, April 19, 2021.**

Essays should be sent to Michelle Amirkhanian at nonprofiteducationdiscovery@gmail.com



In Other World Affairs Education News:

World Affairs, which is San Francisco's branch of the World Affairs Council, has announced its Summer Institute on International Affairs 2021. This interactive program allows high school and community college students to study global issues, participate in World Affairs events, engage with like-minded peers, and practice research, writing, and public-speaking skills.

This year's Institute will be held online. It begins on June 15 and continues for seven weeks. There is a \$100 administrative fee for participation. Needs-based scholarships are available.

The deadline for applying is Friday, April 16 by midnight PDT.

There are no geographic restrictions on applicants, so this could be a nice gift for grandchildren who don't live locally!

For further information or to apply, go to <https://worldaffairs.tfaforms.net/352180>

This is the monthly newsletter of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB). WACMB is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization established to promote the presentation, discussion, and study of international affairs. WACMB is a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization, EIN-770301206. Contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law. WACMB sponsors monthly luncheons, discussion groups, and student scholarships.

Corporate and institutional support for the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area is provided by

- *California State University Monterey Bay**
- *Defense Language Institute**
- *Monterey Peninsula College**
- *Naval Postgraduate School *Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey**
- *Horan & Lloyd Law Firm**

**World Affairs Council
PO Box 83
Monterey, CA 93942
info@wacmb.org**

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 330
Monterey, CA
93940

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**WACMB, PO Box 83, Monterey, CA, 93942
(831) 643-1855 FAX: (831) 643-1846
Email: info@wacmb.org
Website: www.wacmb.org**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Benefactor \$1,000
- Patron \$600
- Sponsor \$300
- Contributing \$150
- Sustaining \$75
- Family/Couple. \$50
- Individual \$30
- Student * \$15

**Make checks payable to WACMB and mail to
WACMB, PO Box 83, Monterey, CA, 93942
(Couples, please include both names)
OR join online at www.wacmb.org**

Names/s: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

*** Student rates are for full-time students at accredited colleges, universities, or graduate schools, as well as for enlisted military personnel in Grades E1 to E4.**

Officers & Board of Directors

**President: Glenn E. Robinson
Secretary: Nancy Johnson
Treasurer: Peter Albano**

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michelle Amirkhanian | Philipp Bleek |
| Jim Emery | Peggy Field |
| Judith Glickman | Chris Keehn |
| Mary Jo McDonough | Maria Morgan |
| Gary Ohls | Jessica Piombo |
| Douglas Porch | Elizabeth Robinson |
| Doug Rogers | Judy Sloan |
| David Thon | Doug Wilhelm |

Mike Wilson

-Liaisons-

- LTC Benjamin Selzer: DLI**
- Toni Thomas: MIIS**
- David Martin: MPC**
- Ida Mansourian: CSUMB**
- Jessica Piombo (Acting): NPS**
- Larry Johnson: OLLI**

Passport Editor: Elizabeth Robinson